

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in this application:

Claims 1-2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, ~~The preparation of claim 1,~~ wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is present in an amount from 29 percent by weight to 59 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, ~~The preparation of claim 1,~~ wherein urea is present in an amount from 45 percent by weight to 65 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, ~~The preparation of claim 1,~~ wherein urea is present in an amount from 46 percent by weight to 63 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, ~~The preparation of claim 1,~~ wherein urea is present in an amount from 55 percent by weight to 63 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, ~~The preparation of claim 1,~~ wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is a polyvinylpyrrolidone.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, ~~The preparation of claim 1,~~ wherein the aqueous-alcoholic solution comprises an alcohol selected from among methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, butanol, pentanol, hexanol, and a mixture thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, ~~The preparation of claim 9,~~ wherein the alcohol is ethanol, n-propanol or isopropanol.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, The preparation of claim 1, wherein the ratio of alcohol to water is from 9:1 to 1:9.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, The preparation of claim 11, wherein the ratio of alcohol to water comprises 2 parts of alcohol to 3 parts of water.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the preparation further comprises ~~The preparation of claim 1, further comprising~~ lactic acid.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, The preparation of claim 13, wherein the lactic acid is present in an amount from 0.5 percent by weight to 5 percent by weight, relative to the weight of the entire preparation.

Claims 15-29 (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method of hydrating brittle toenails or fingernails comprising applying to brittle toenails or fingernails a pharmaceutical preparation, in the form of a solution, comprising

- a) nonvolatile constituents, which comprise
 - urea in an amount from 41 percent by weight to 69 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation, and
 - a hydrophilic film-forming agent,
 - wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is a compound selected from among acrylic/methacrylic acid ester copolymers, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinyl alcohols, vinyl acetate/vinylpyrrolidone copolymers, vinyl acetate/crotonic acid copolymers, methyl vinyl ether/maleic acid copolymers, polyesters, polyester amides, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof,

and

- b) water or an alcohol-water mixture.

Claims 31-44 (Canceled)